

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Jo Anne Croskey

*Jo Anne Croskey*  
Signature

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.56**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir/Madam:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the art listed and identified on the attached PTO Form is being submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each of the listed references is included herewith.

It is Applicants' opinion that the claims presently on file patentably distinguish the present invention from each of these references. The above references are being cited only in the interests of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art or contain matter which anticipates the invention or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

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S. Zimmermann  
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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0476.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Renke", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: January 11, 2002

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.